From: Don Ramier
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 12:16pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to have my comment entered into the Federal Register as required by the provisions of the Tunney Act (Antitrust Procedures and Penalties Act) with respect to the proposed "settlement" of the Microsoft Corporation anti-trust case.

Since Microsoft has shown absolutely no remorse or change in business attitudes following the 1995 anti-trust decision rendered against it, and has been found to be in contempt of court regarding subsequent violations, business activities, business strategies, and programs, I hope and pray that the Federal Government will deny the validity of this settlement on many grounds, including and not limited to the one mentioned above.

This provisions of this settlement are unenforceable. The penalties cannot be enforced, monitored, or even imposed upon the Microsoft Corporation.

I never wanted to have a browser supplied by Microsoft Corporation with their operating system forcibly imposed on my property, my Personal Computer, called Internet Explorer. I use Netscape, a competitor of Microsoft's. My computer fails to operate properly due to malicious engineering by the operating system (Windows) when I respond that I don't want to use Internet Explorer as my default browser. How can I be sure that the I.E. code is to blame? How can the provisions of this settlement be enforced? Computer programming can be "transparent to the user" and can cause lingering damage, and even crippling effects on the property of people like myself, if I don't answer the questions the way the code interprets I should. How can situations like this be monitored by the U.S. Government, or by anybody else, for that matter?

This is just one of many examples I could use to describe the performance (or lack thereof) of my property, my Personal Computer, when maimed by any number of versions of the Windows operating system. I am a technical writer by trade, and it is my job to document highly technical programming code of sophisticated software applications. Over the last twenty years, I have been employed by the International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), the Federal Express Corporation (FedEx) and three smaller software development corporations. I have been very well trained to know what the code is supposed to do, and what the code is NOT supposed to do (the actions and mistaken actions of programming code).

In these twenty years of computer related technical writing experience, I have seen the emergence of the operating system named DOS (short for Disk Operating System) that Microsoft created for delivery on the IBM PC, the evolution of DOS to Windows, and, over time, the gradual, yet perceivable, encroachment of the Windows operating environment on my ability to perform my specified tasks within the framework needed. Jumps from versions of operating systems affected the performance of other applications that should not have been affected and this caused much delay in the delivering of my services to my employers in a timely manner.

How can the U.S. Government hope to understand, much less enforce, the terms of this proposed settlement on the intricacies of the Windows operating environment and the thousands upon thousands of lines of code? It is inconceivable to me that the U.S. Government, in all it's might and glory, cannot see that this settlement is just a cop out and is not justice, but an appeasement ot the monolithic Microsoft Corporation.

For these and other reasons, I hereby voice my concern over the terms of the proposed settlement and ask that remedial steps be taken to truly and justly dismantle the monopolistic Microsoft Corporation by force of law.

Sincerely,
Don A. Ramier, III
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